

In my community of Lafayette, we have roughly 11 radio stations, 7 of which are owned by 3 different companies: KVM Broadcasting, RadioWorks, Artistic Media Partners to provide the same collection of playlists (classic rock/oldies, country, and pop). The other 4 include 2 which are owned by the same local radio station, one (actually 2) that broadcasts from Purdue University, and one from the local high school. However, out of all of them, the only time they provide local coverage is the news and weather. There are rarely any extended event coverages during our festivals; even though they may broadcast on location, those are just 2-3 minute bursts.

Regretfully, as it stands now, and if there is consensus to deregulate even further, there is very little outlets for the local culture to carry on in the form of bands, events, or even town hall meetings (WBAA out of Purdue does the town hall meetings on occasion, but it is usually in the interest of the University as a whole). Therefore, the only thing left is competition, and by loosening the rules even further, that will even dissappear.

In conclusion to satisfy the mandates for: freedom of competition, diversity in content, and locality, the current system has failed on two counts in this small town of about 150,000, and the third one is very close to the end. To my knowledge, there are no rules dictating that the radio stations allow airtime for local events or groups, but by the same token, most of the radio stations are barely giving the community the time of day.